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BLACKMASK

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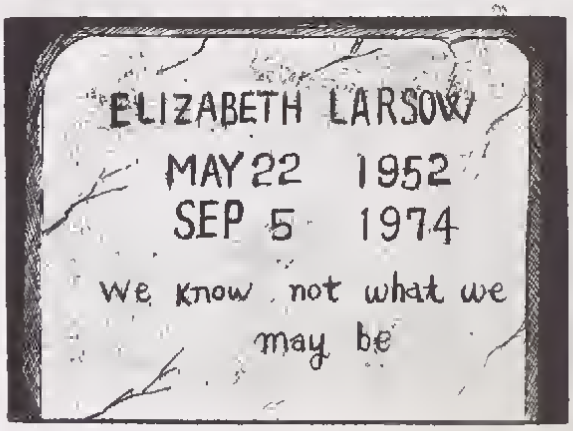
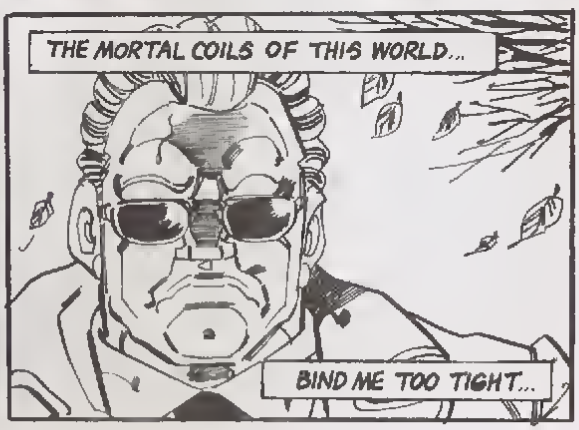
THE OLD CEMETERY-
NEWPORT CITY
I WAS SO CLOSE, ELIZABETH...

BUT I COULDN'T PULL THE TRIGGER LAST NIGHT...
ELIZABETH LA
MAY 22 1952
we


ELIZABETH LARSOW
MAY 22 1952
SEP 5 1974
We know not what we may be


THE MORTAL COILS OF THIS WORLD...
BIND ME TOO TIGHT...

IN YOUR SLEEP OF DEATH WHAT DREAMS MAY COME, ELIZABETH?
DO YOU DREAM OF ME FROM THE OTHER SIDE AS I DREAM OF YOU EACH NIGHT?
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A COWARD, ELIZABETH... INDECISIVE, AFRAID...
AND THAT'S WHY I CLING SO DESPERATELY TO THIS WRETCHED JOB OF MINE. I'M SAFE AND UNCOMMITTED HERE...
THAT'S WHY I'M STANDING HERE AND NOT STRETCHED OUT ON THE COLD TABLE AT THE MORGUE...
ELIZABETH LA
MAY 22 19
SEP 5 19
We Knew

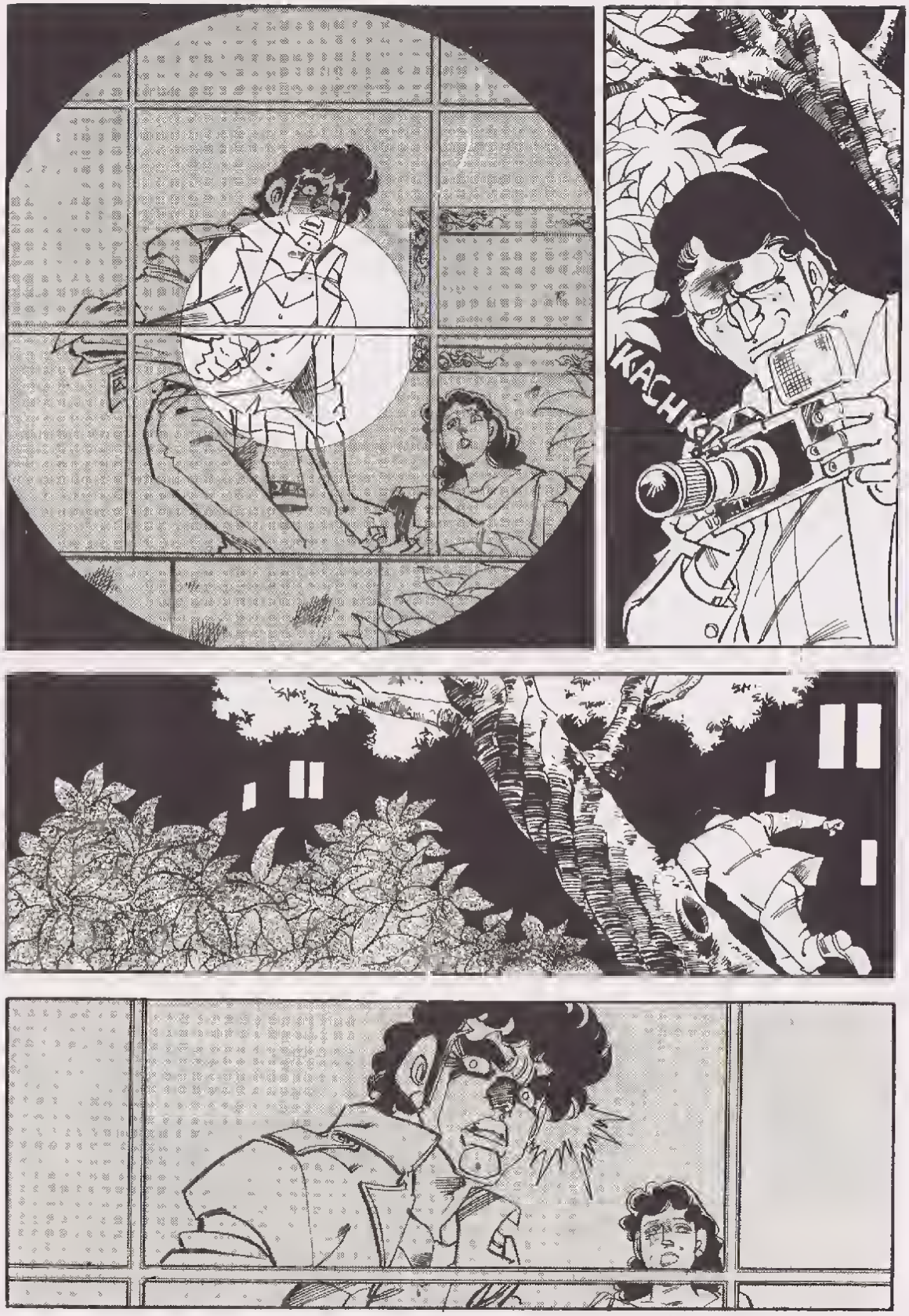
LIKE THE BODY OF KATHY ROYT. POOR GIRL...
OR IS SHE THE LUCKY ONE? PASSED ON BEFORE THE TERROR AND LONELINESS OF THIS LIFE COULD BREAK HER SPIRIT...
I GUESS IT'S HER BROTHER WHO'S THE UNLUCKY ONE... IMMATURE, FULL OF HIMSELF... STUPID...
I SWEAR, JOE, THE WAY THAT GUY COMES HERE ALL THE TIME - IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
SHUP UP AND DIG, OKAY? WE AIN'T GOT ALL DAY.
I TELL YA, THE WAY HE LOOKS I COULD SWEAR WE COULD PLANTING HIM HERE NEXT WEEK OR SOMETHING. HEY, WHAT'S THIS? MY GOD, IT'S A SKULL!

WHEN YOU'RE LOST, EVERY SIGN...
IS A CLUE...
IT'S TIME...
TO GET TO WORK AGAIN.

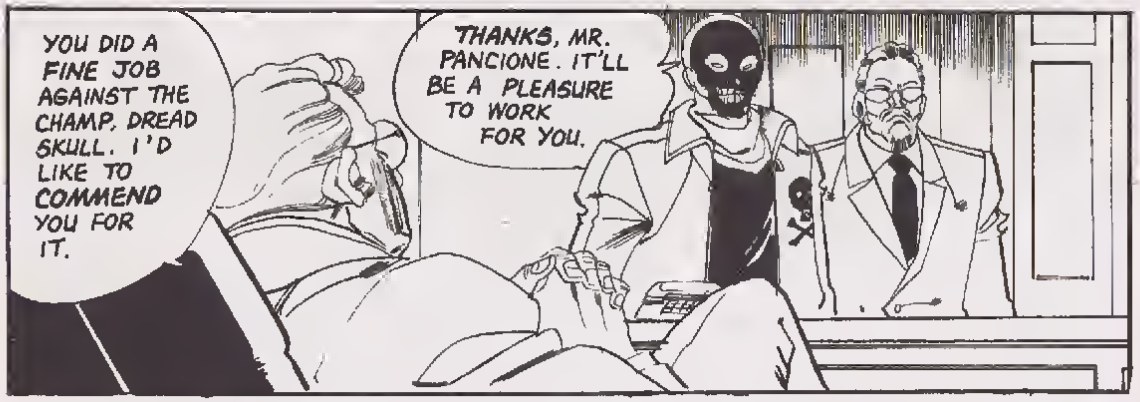
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, LAURA.
THE COPS JUST CAME AND TOOK HIM AWAY WITHOUT ANY REASON. SOMEONE MUST HAVE TURNED HIM IN, JASON!
AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME HE KNEW SOMETHING. IT HAD TO BE YOU! YOU WERE MAD AT HIM!
I SWEAR IT WASN'T ME, LAURA.

BECAUSE IF IT WERE UP TO ME, I WOULDN'T JUST REPORT HIM TO THE POLICE. I'D BEAT WHAT I WANTED OUT OF HIM AND THEN I'D KILL HIM LONG AND SLOW LIKE...
JASON, STOP IT, PLEASE!
THEY PROBABLY JUST TOOK HIM IN FOR SOME 'ROUTINE FOLLOW UP SINCE HE'S CONNECTED TO CHAMP JACKSON. I'M SORRY, LAURA, BUT I'M UPSET.
MY FOLKS WERE GUNNED DOWN RIGHT HERE IN THIS ROOM. AND EVERY TIME I THINK OF YOUR DAD, I SEE THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE.
DO YOU PROMISE YOU DIDN'T TURN HIM IN? I STILL THINK OF YOU AS A FRIEND, YOU KNOW. DESPITE...
DESPITE WHAT? YOUR DAD AND MINE WERE FRIENDS FOR TWENTY YEARS AND LOOK WHERE IT GOT THEM, HUH?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY HEAD, LAURA. EVERYTHING'S RED... RED...
OH, JASON, I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS.
I GUESS AFTER WHAT YOU SAID AT MY HOUSE, I JUST LOST MY HEAD, TOO.
GO ON HOME. I THINK YOUR DAD WILL BE BACK SOON.
WHAT'S THAT ?


KACHK!

Memory is false as Anything
THREE BLIND MICE, A SKULL, A MAD SCIENTIST...
WHY MUST MY LIFE BE SO FULL OF COMPLICATIONS ?


YOU DID A FINE JOB AGAINST THE CHAMP, DREAD SKULL. I'D LIKE TO COMMEND YOU FOR IT.
THANKS, MR.. PANCIONE. IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO WORK FOR YOU.

GOOD, YOUR NEXT JOB WILL BE TO FIGHT VOODOO LEGBA.

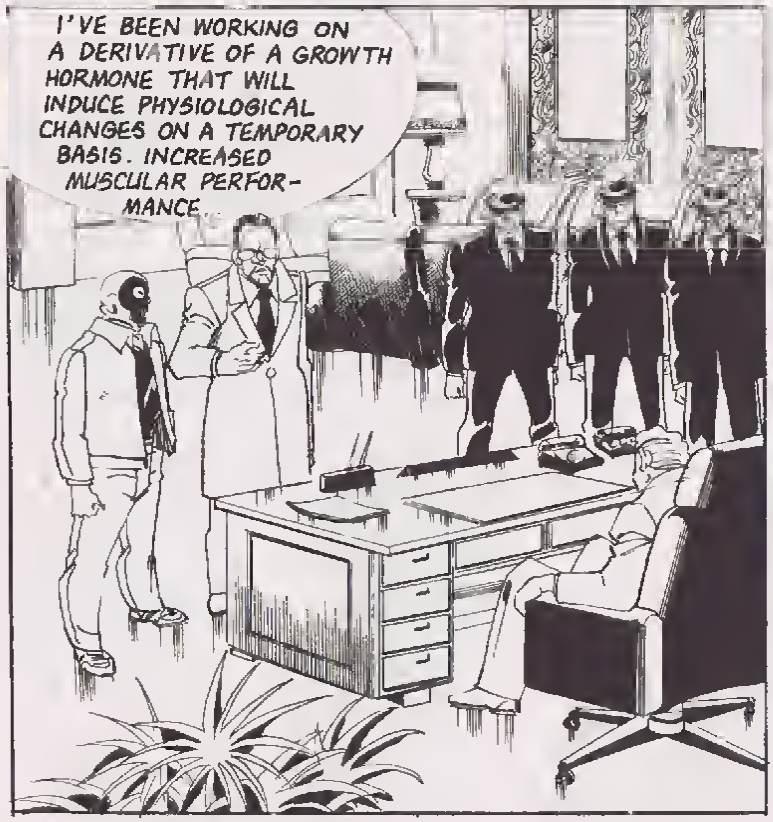
VOODOO LEGBA ?!

B-BUT VOODOO LEGBA IS THE STRONGEST WRESTLER ON THIS COAST, MR. PANCIONE! HE'S BIGGER THAN ANYONE ELSE, AND THEY SAY HE DOES MAGIC SPELLS. NO ONE'S EVER BEATEN HIM! EVER! I-I...
HE'S SO OUT OF MY LEAGUE NO ONE WOULD FALL FOR IT EVEN IF WE COULD RIG THE MATCH!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TO RIG THIS ONE, SKULL, MY BOY. WE WILL JUST RIG YOU.
AND YOU CAN CALL ME BOSS, GOT THAT, SKULL?
Y-YES, B-BOSS. BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO RIG ME? IS IT SOME SECRET WEAPON?
THAT'S EXACTLY IT, SKULLY BOY! A SECRET WEAPON. BUT THAT SECRET WEAPON WILL BE YOURSELF!
BUT, BOSS! I'M NOT THAT GOOD!

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU THAT GOOD! BETTER THAN VOODOO LEGBA.
BUT THERE AIN'T NO TRAINING PROGRAM THAT COULD DO THAT, BOSS.

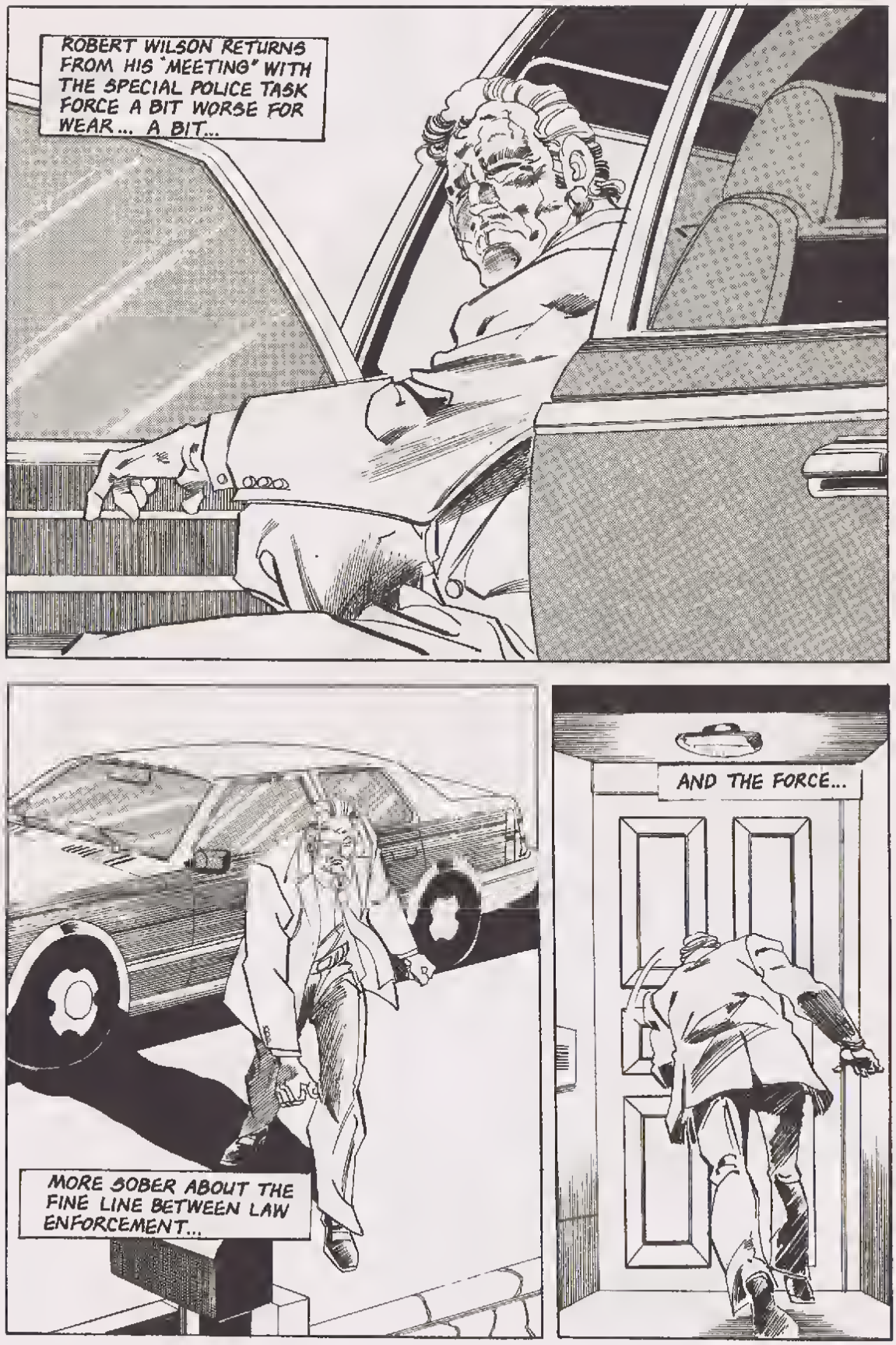
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF TRAINING. WE'LL GET A LITTLE HELP FROM MR. SCIENCE.

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM THE RUNDOWN, PROFESSOR MANSON.
OF COURSE, BOSS.

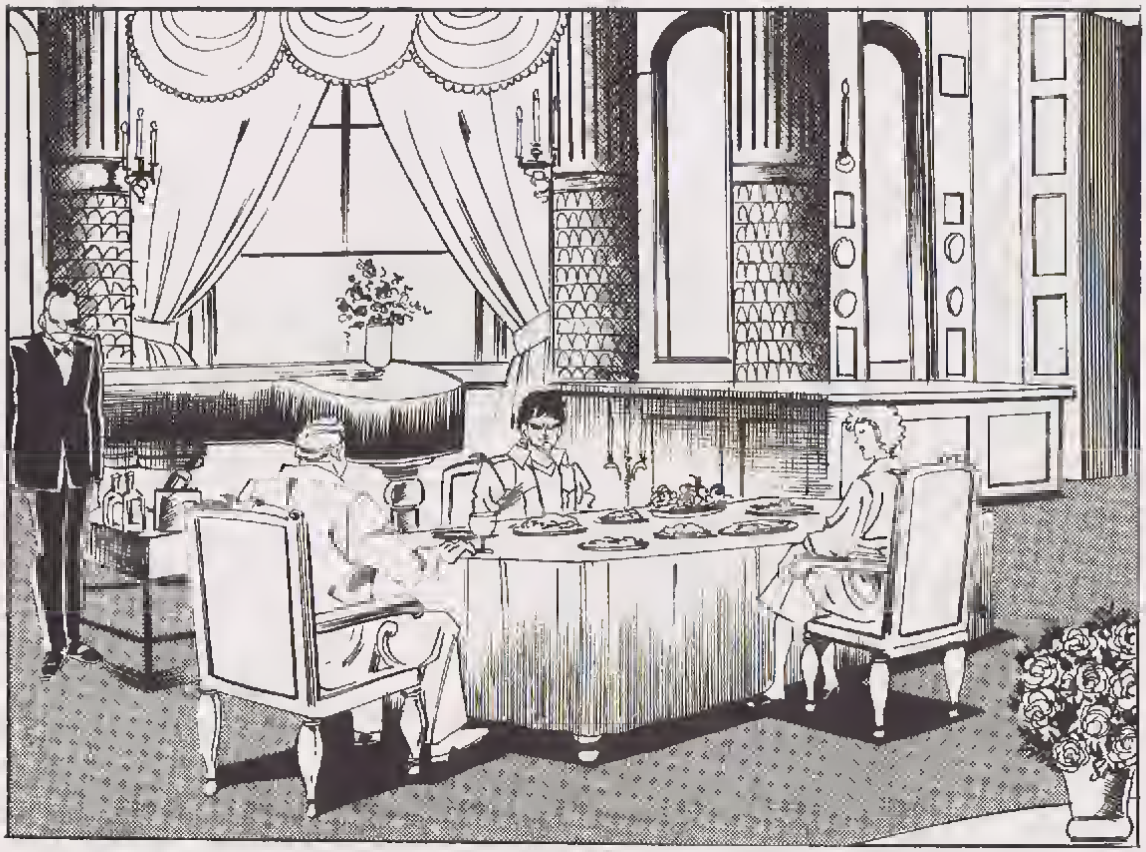

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A DERIVATIVE OF A GROWTH HORMONE THAT WILL INDUCE PHYSIOLOGICAL CHANGES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. INCREASED MUSCULAR PERFORMANCE.

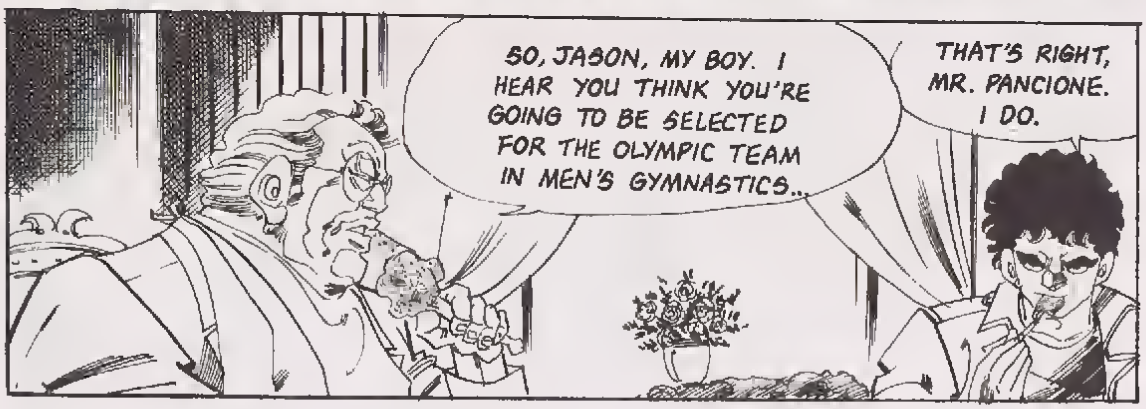
ACCELERATED METABOLIC RATE. WITH MY FORMULA, A MOUSE CAN LITERALLY TEAR A CAT TO PIECES. IT'S QUITE REMARKABLE.

WHAT ABOUT SIDE EFFECTS, HUH, DOC?
I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE ADEQUATE DATA TO DISCUSS THAT.
WHAT? I HAD SOME STEROIDS BEFORE, AND I DIDN'T LIKE WHAT THEY DID TO ME. YOU TELL ME WHAT I'M GETTIN INTO, DOC!
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE THE FIRST HUMAN SUBJECT. RESULTS ON LOWER PRIMATES ARE STILL PENDING. IT WILL BE WHAT WE CALL A CALCULATED RISK.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU CALL IT! IT COULD TURN ME INTO A ZOMBIE OR SOMETHING!
WHEN YOU JOIN MY HAPPY FAMILY, YOU DO AS I SAY, SKULL BOY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
B-BUT, BOSS!
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE IN THIS MATTER, AND THAT'S MY FINAL VERDICT!


ROBERT WILSON RETURNS FROM HIS "MEETING" WITH THE SPECIAL POLICE TASK FORCE A BIT WORSE FOR WEAR... A BIT...
MORE SOBER ABOUT THE FINE LINE BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT...
AND THE FORCE...

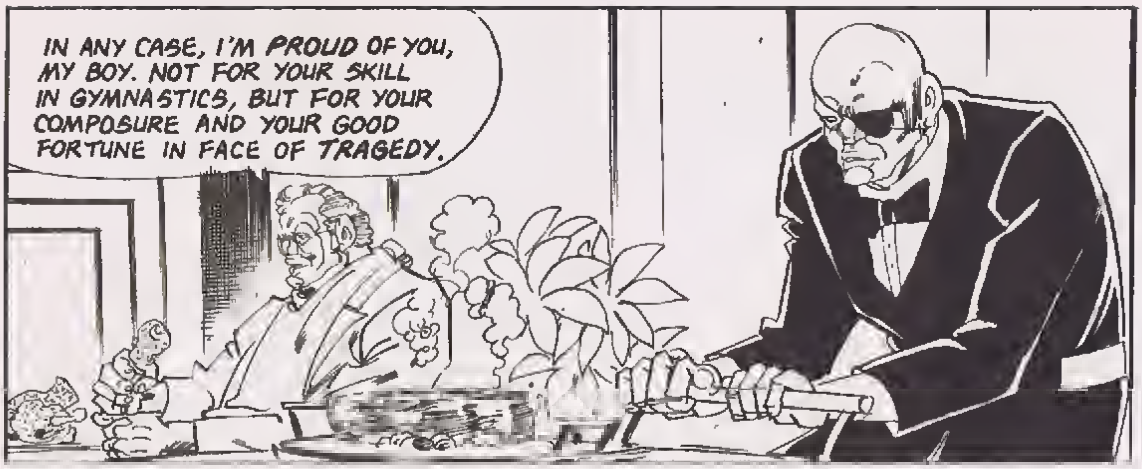
OF THE LAW.
GASP!
OH MY GOD! ROBERT!
DADDY! WHAT HAVE THOSE FASCIST PIGS DONE TO YOU!
DADDY, PLEASE SAY SOMETHING! ARE YOU OKAY? DON'T TRY TO WALK, WE'LL HELP YOU.
OH; GOD. I WANT YOU TO GO CALL THE POLICE RIGHT AWAY, LAURA.
OH, STOP IT. IT WAS THE POLICE WHO DID THIS TO ME. JUST GET ME A DRINK, OKAY?
YOU HEARD YOUR FATHER! GET HIM A DRINK!




SO, JASON, MY BOY. I HEAR YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BE SELECTED FOR THE OLYMPIC TEAM IN MEN'S GYMNASTICS..
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. PANCIONE. I DO.

DADDY, I ALREADY TOLD YOU JASON AND I BOTH MADE IT ON THE TEAM. IT WAS ONLY LAST WEEK.

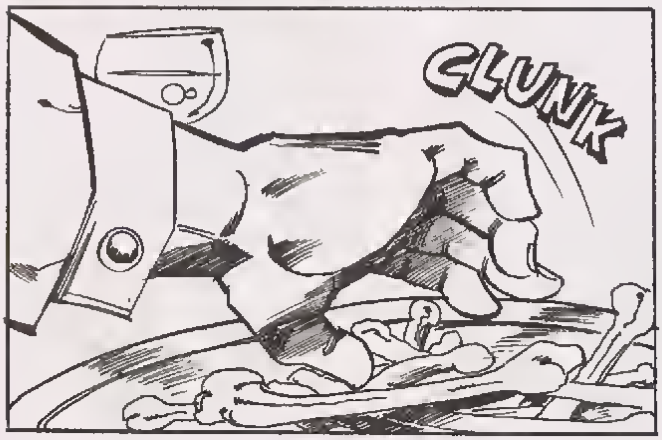
HO HO HO. OF COURSE YOU TOLD ME, MY CUPCAKE.

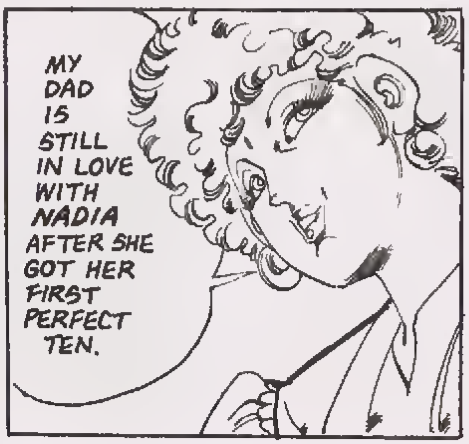

IN ANY CASE, I'M PROUD OF YOU, MY BOY. NOT FOR YOUR SKILL IN GYMNASTICS, BUT FOR YOUR COMPOSURE AND YOUR GOOD FORTUNE IN FACE OF TRAGEDY.

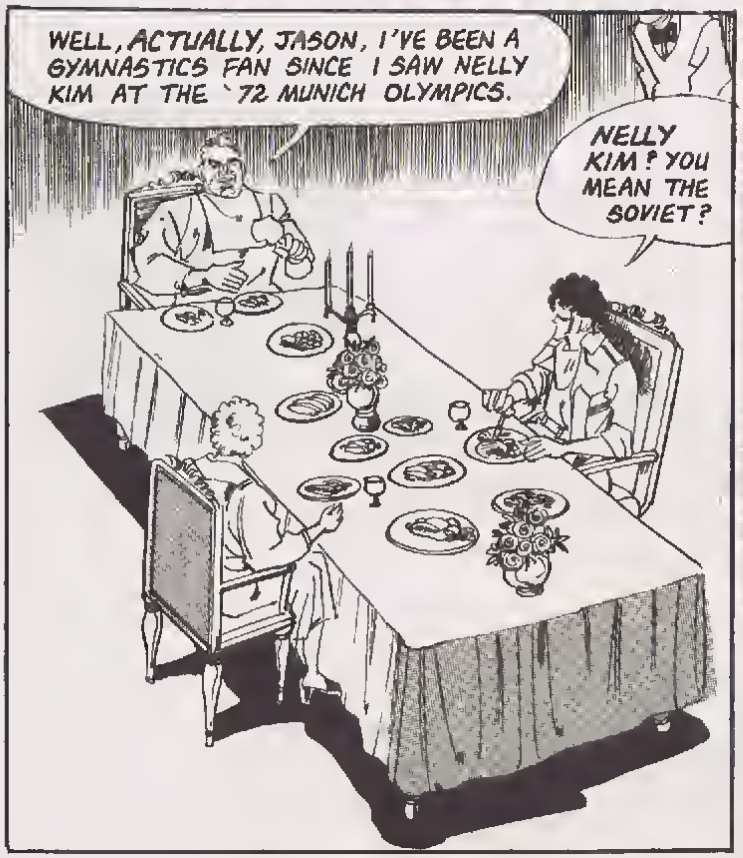
I DON'T QUITE SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT, MR. PANCIONE, WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE THE SUBJECT AND SAY HOW PROUD YOU ARE OF LENA.

AFTER ALL, EVERYONE ADMITS SHE'S OUR ONLY GOLD MEDAL PROSPECT THIS TIME AROUND.

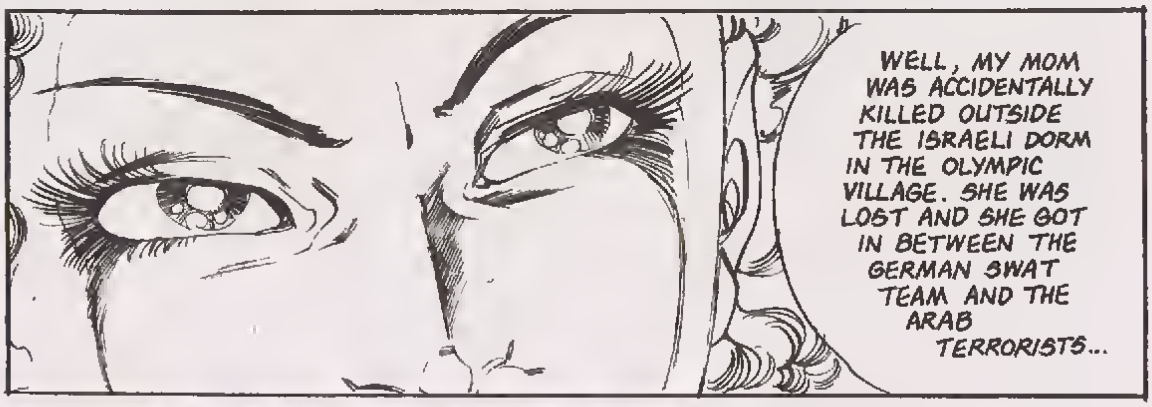
WELL... ≥GULP≤ IS THAT SO? YOU REALLY THINK LENA IS ALL THAT GOOD? HOW DOES SHE COMPARE TO THOSE LITTLE RUMANIAN GIRLS?

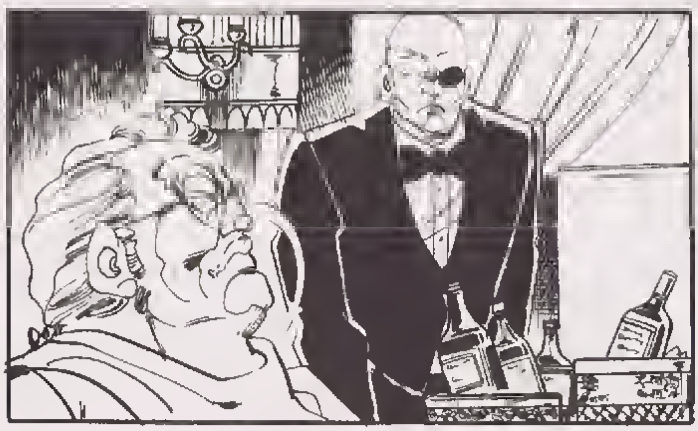

CLUNK


MY DAD IS STILL IN LOVE WITH NADIA AFTER SHE GOT HER FIRST PERFECT TEN.


WELL, ACTUALLY, JASON, I'VE BEEN A GYMNASTICS FAN SINCE I SAW NELLY KIM AT THE '72 MUNICH OLYMPICS.
NELLY KIM? YOU MEAN THE SOVIET?

MY DAD PUT ME IN A GYMNASTICS CLASS RIGHT AFTER THE MUNICH OLYMPICS. SEE, HE PROMISED MY MOM, AND...

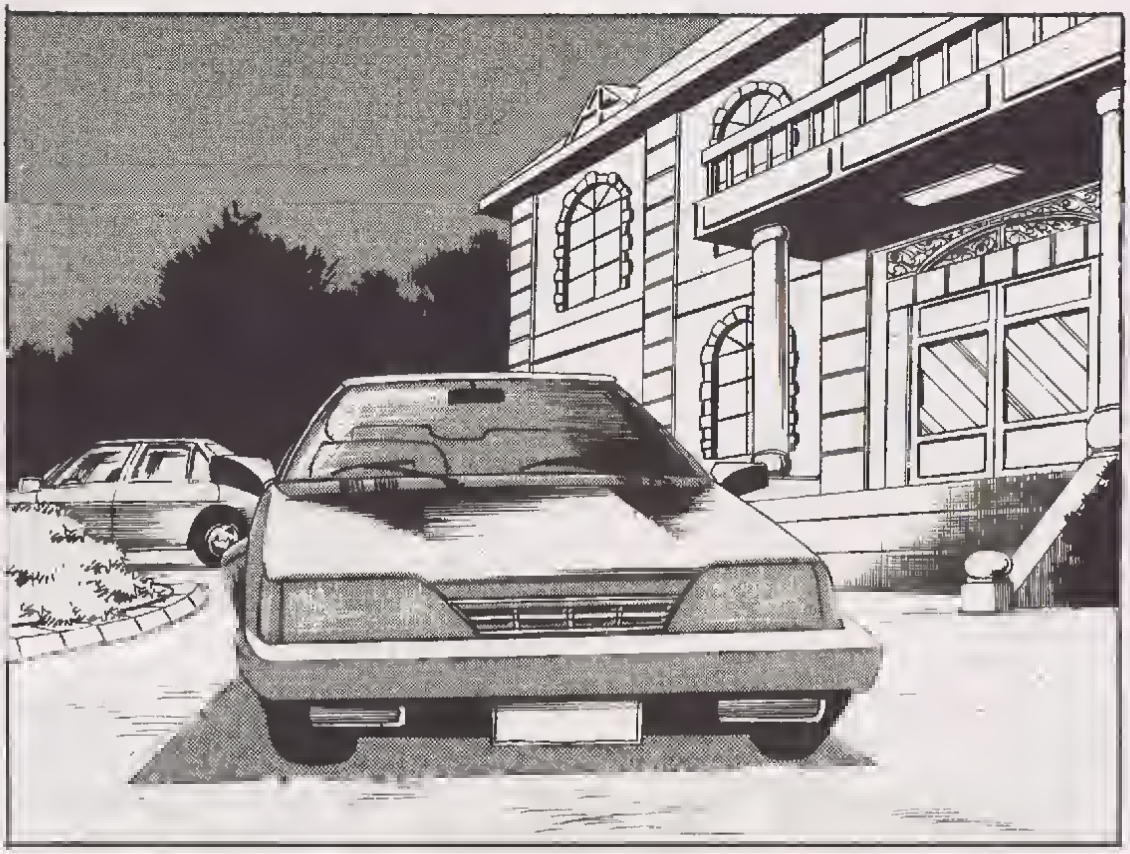

WELL, MY MOM WAS ACCIDENTALLY KILLED OUTSIDE THE ISRAELI DORM IN THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE. SHE WAS LOST AND SHE GOT IN BETWEEN THE GERMAN SWAT TEAM AND THE ARAB TERRORISTS...

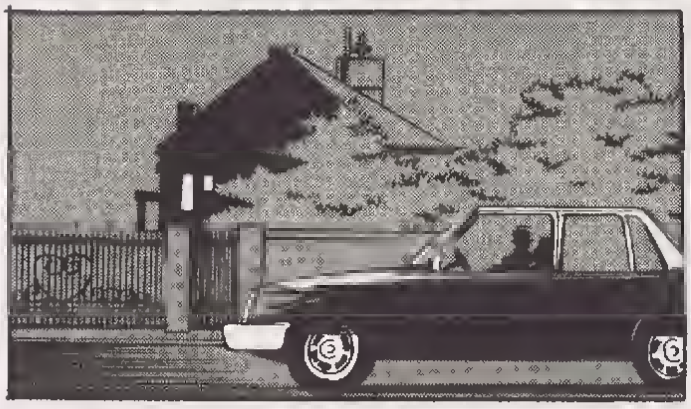


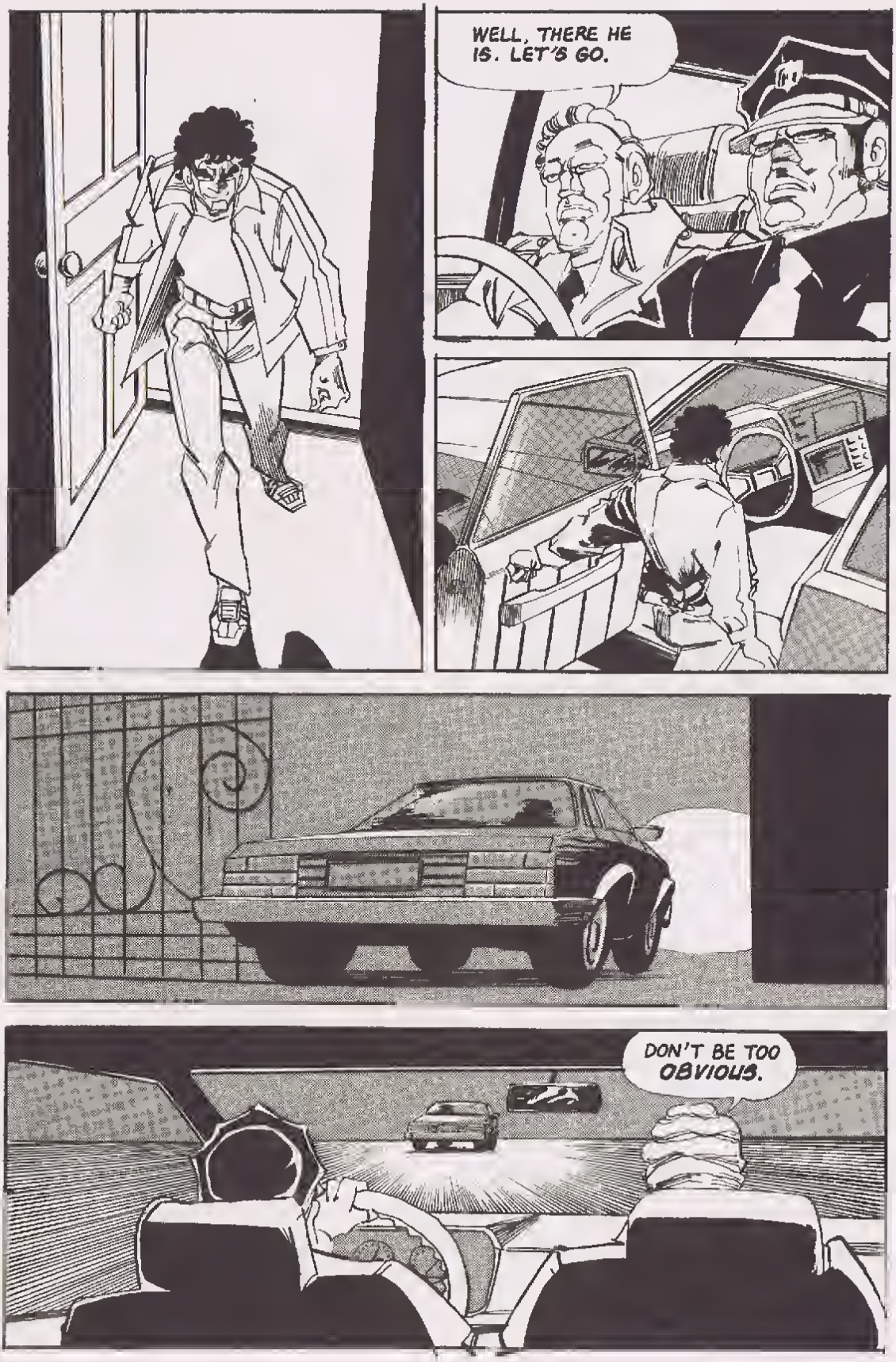
YES, BOSS! WHAT CAN I BRING FOR YOU NEXT?
IT'S GETTING TO BE ABOUT THAT TIME, ISN'T IT?
WHY, SURE, BOSS. I SEE.

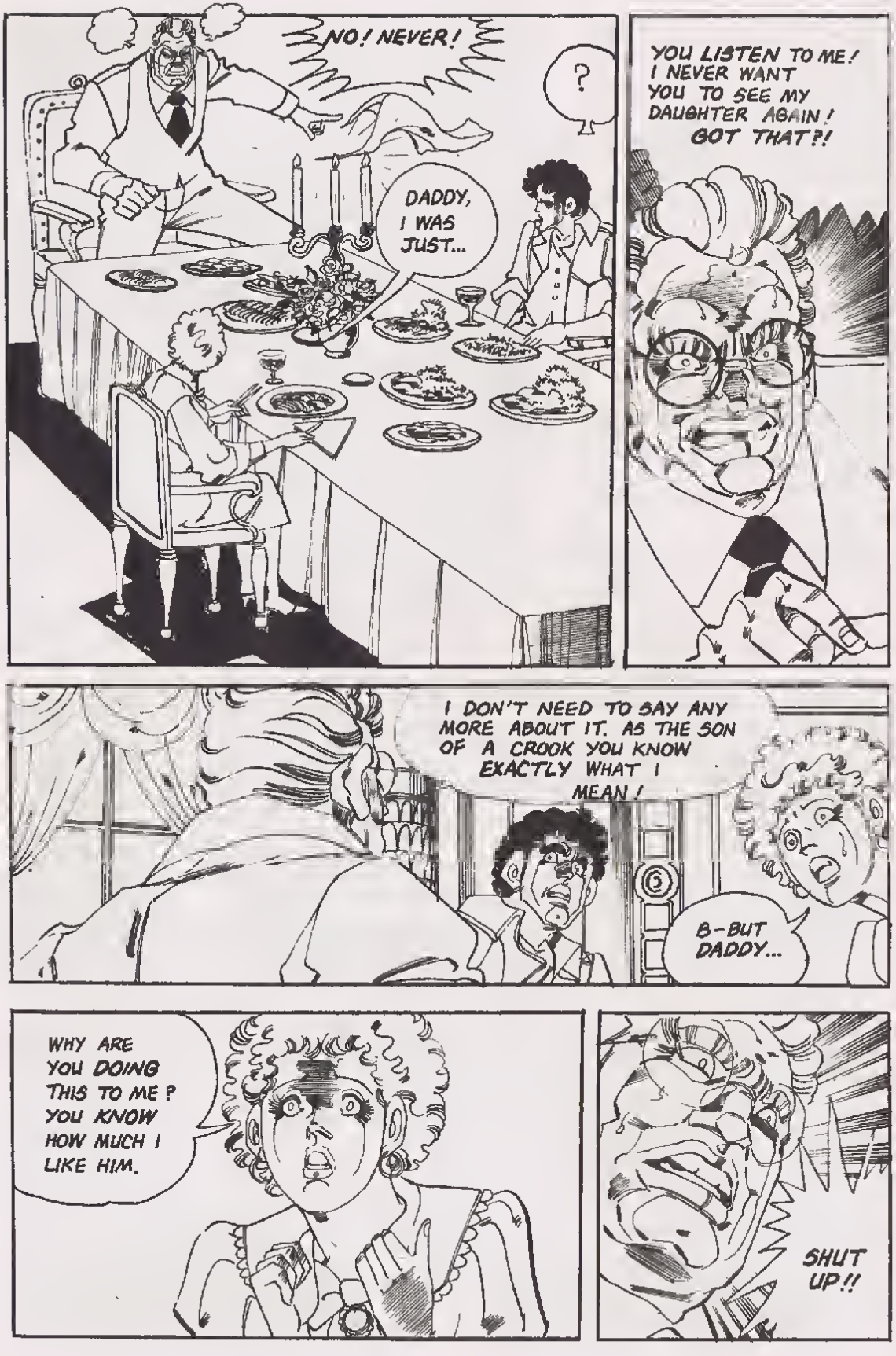
YEAH? SKULL HERE.
OLD MAN PANCIONE JUST GAVE ME THE SIGNAL, SKULL.
ALL RIGHT. I'M READY.
WELL, KID, I'M YOU.

LET'S NOT GET INTO THE PAST NOW. YOU JUST WIN THAT GOLD MEDAL, LENA, AND I PROMISE YOU CAN HAVE WHATEVER YOUR LITTLE HEART DESIRES!
DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT, DADDY? YOU PROMISE?

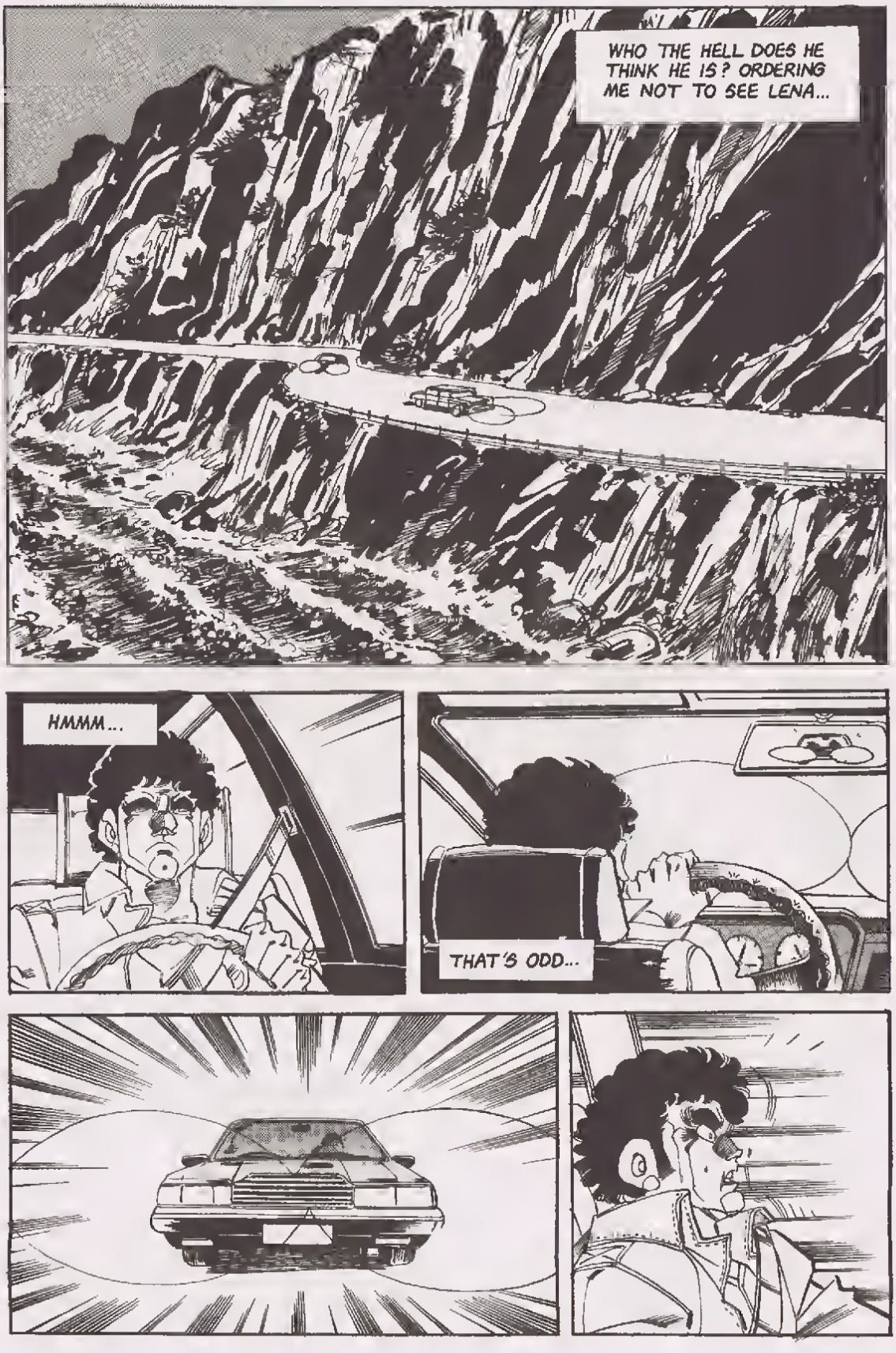


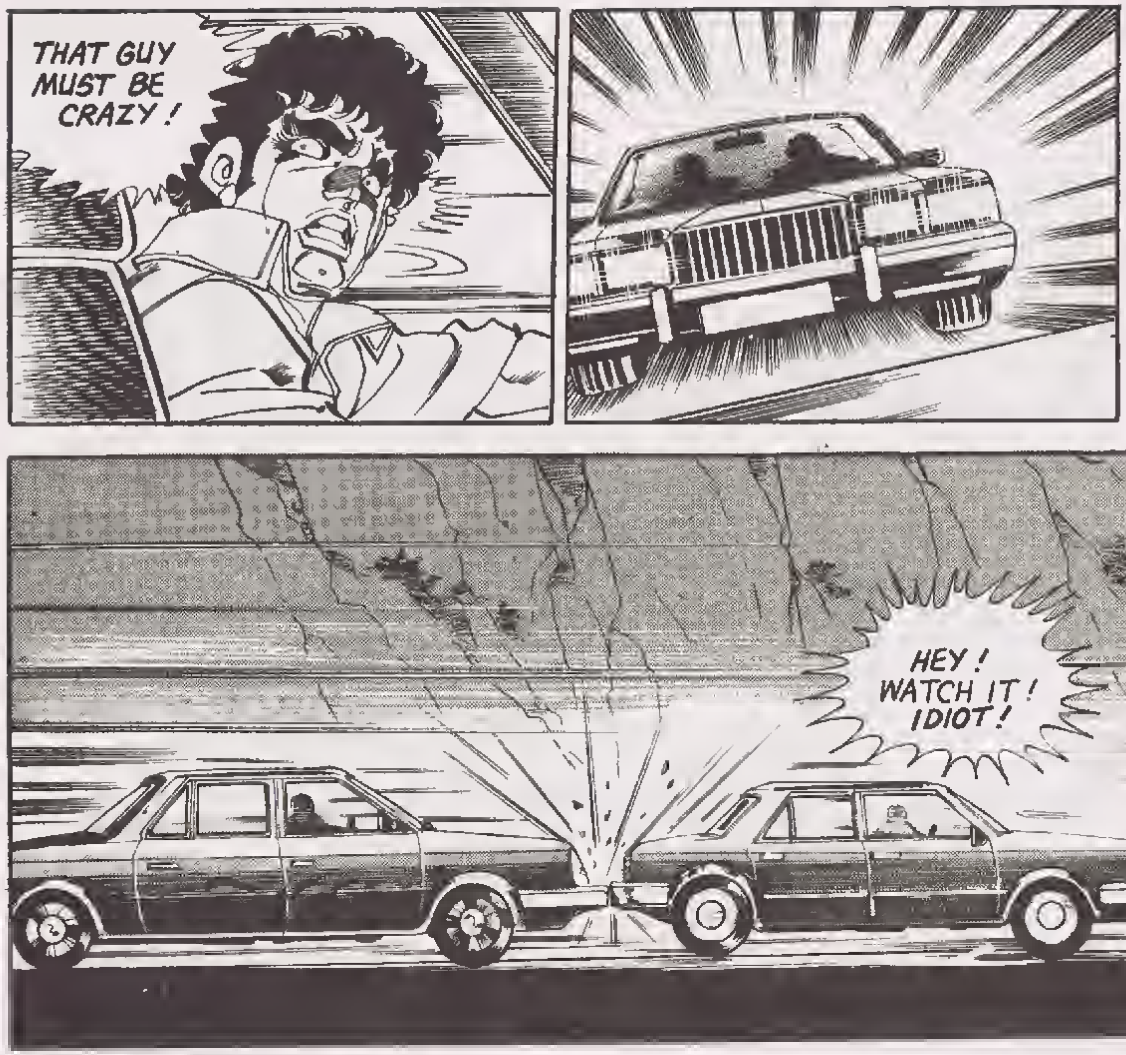



WELL, THERE HE IS. LET'S GO.
DON'T BE TOO OBVIOUS.


NO! NEVER!
?
DADDY, I WAS JUST...
YOU LISTEN TO ME! I NEVER WANT YOU TO SEE MY DAUGHTER AGAIN! GOT THAT?!
I DON'T NEED TO SAY ANY MORE ABOUT IT. AS THE SON OF A CROOK YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN!
B-BUT DADDY...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME? YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LIKE HIM.
SHUT UP!!

GET OUT OF MY HOUSE! AND NEVER COME NEAR MY DAUGHTER EVER AGAIN!
ALL RIGHT, MR. PANCIONE. I'LL LEAVE, BUT THE REST IS UP TO LENA, NOT YOU.
AND THANKS FOR INVITING ME TO DINNER.
JASON! WAIT!
I HATE YOU, YOU DIRTY PIG!
I HATE YOU. I HATE YOU...


WHO THE HELL DOES HE THINK HE IS? ORDERING ME NOT TO SEE LENA...
HMMM...
THAT'S ODD...

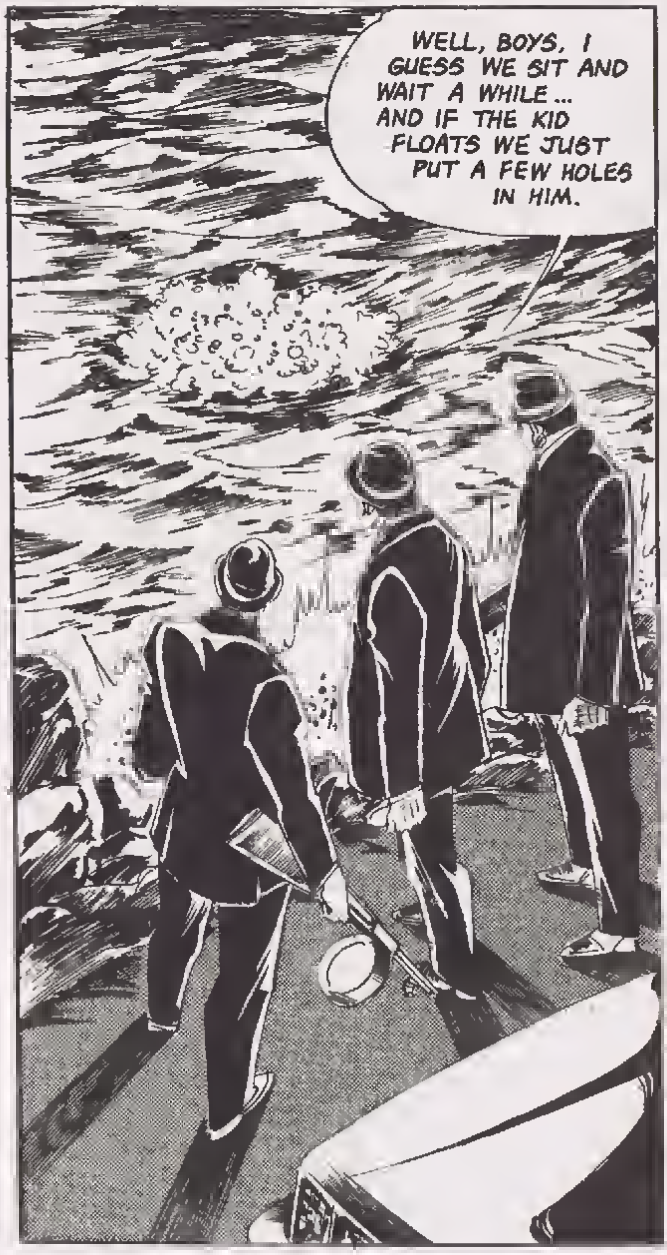

THAT GUY MUST BE CRAZY!
HEY! WATCH IT! IDIOT!
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO OUTRUN THIS FOOL BEFORE HE KILLS US.

DON'T LET THE PUNK GET AWAY! THE BOSS WILL BE PISSED!
COME ON! STEP ON THAT GAS!
BRRATATATATATA
OH MY GOD! IT'S THE GUYS WHO MURDERED MY FAMILY!

POW!
NOOO!
AAAAGH!
KRUMP!
KARAAASH!

SPLASH!!

UNNH... WATER... MY HEAD... I'M IN THE WATER! I'VE GOT TO THINK FAST!
KICK!
WHOOOSH!


WELL, BOYS, I GUESS WE SIT AND WAIT A WHILE... AND IF THE KID FLOATS WE JUST PUT A FEW HOLES IN HIM.

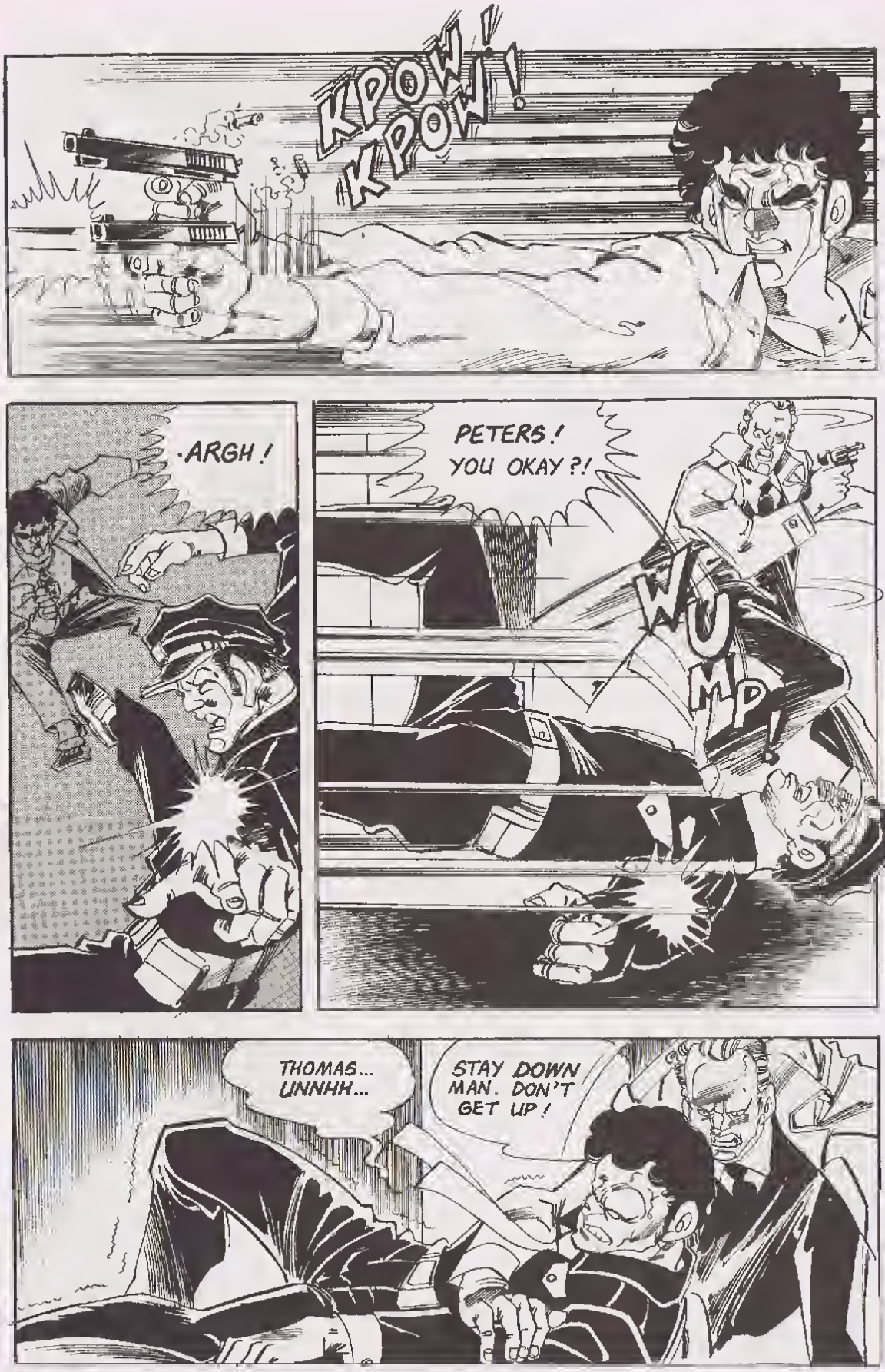
JUST LOOK AT THAT. AIN'T IT A ROMANTIC WAY TO GO? BUBBLE BUBBLE...

THE WAY THE MOONLIGHT HITS THE WAVES... DON'T IT REMIND YOU OF THAT TIME WE MADE THOSE SEVEN HITS IN HAWAII? THAT WAS SOMETHING, HUH?
YEAH, WE HAD TIME TO GO SCUBA DIVING THAT SUMMER...
WELL, I DON'T THINKS HE'S GONNA COME UP, BOYS LETS HEAD BACK STILL GOT A MEETING WITH HALLOWEEN FACE TONIGHT.
HEY, WE AIN'T IN NO HURRY. HOW ABOUT STOPPIN' FOR SOME CAF'E, HUH?
I KNOW A REAL NICE PLACE DOWN BY THE OLD WHARF.
ALL RIGHT. BUT YOU GET ME A DECAF. MY NERVES ARE A BIT STRUNG.

ELSEWHERE...
NEWPORT CITY'S RED LIGHT DISTRICT...
MOTEL
KH
1MPSTR

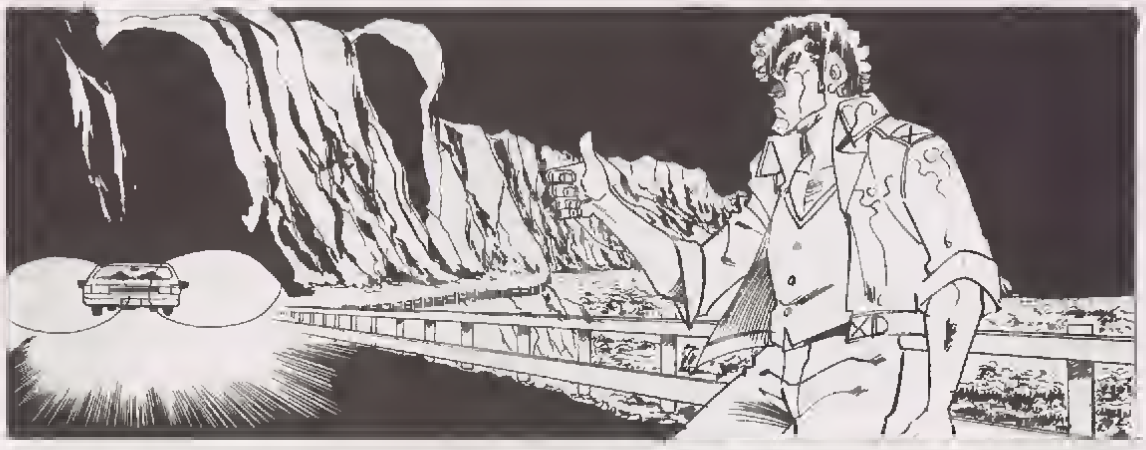
I'M GETTING A WEIRD FEELING ABOUT THIS, THOMAS. WHY WOULD HE LEAD US HERE OF ALL PLACES?
ECHO 14, OVER. REQUEST DATA ON BLUE SEDAN, LICENCE PLATES 1M·PSTR. CHECK THE NAME...
WE'LL ALSO NEED A BACK-UP UNIT OUT HERE, PRONTO. RED LIGHT DISTRICT, 41ST AND DOCK.
HE STOPPED, THOMAS. HE'S GETTING OUT OF THE CAR.

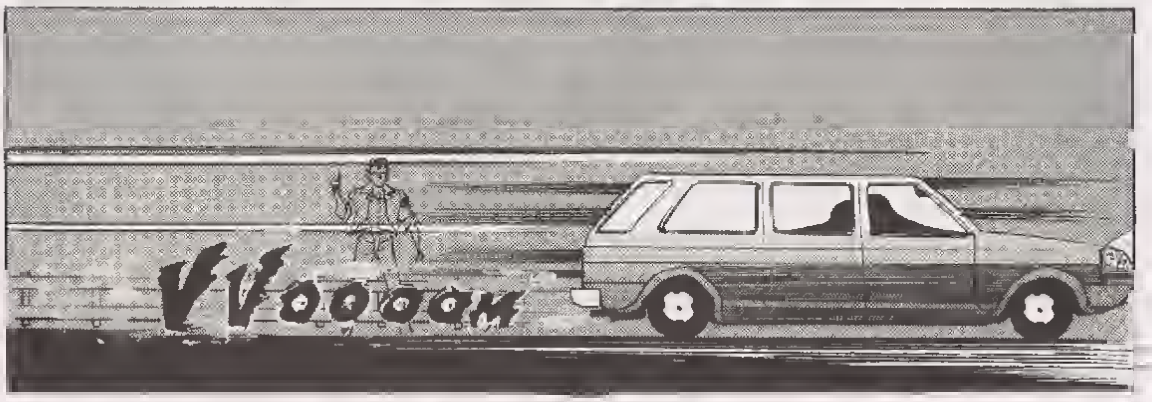
HEY, HE JUST PULLED A GUN! CAREFUL!


KPOW! KPOW!
ARGH!
PETERS! YOU OKAY?!
WUMP!
THOMAS... UNNHH...
STAY DOWN MAN. DON'T GET UP!

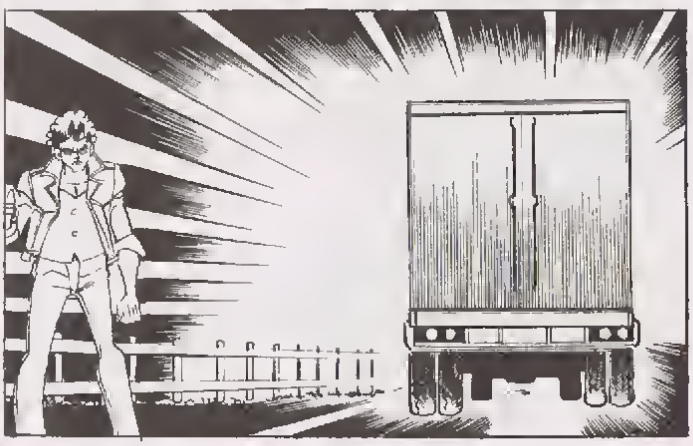
KRAK!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WHAT THE...

HE CAN'T JUST VANISH LIKE THAT...
WE'VE BEEN DUPED... INSPECTOR KENT IS GONNA WANT MY BADGE FOR THIS...




VVoooom

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE SAME GUYS WHO GOT MY FAMILY...

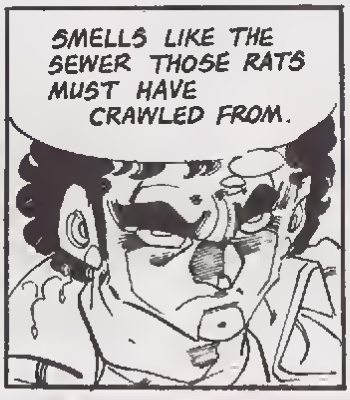


INSPECTOR KENT WAS RIGHT ABOUT MY BEING IN DANGER. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO HIM...
SO WHERE YA HEADED, PARTNER? BIT LATE FOR SWIMMIN'.
I NEED TO GET BACK TO THE CITY. CAN YOU TAKE ME?
WELL... I SEE YER A BIT DRIPPY, BUT I GUESS IT WON'T DO THIS TRUCK NO HARM. HOP IN.

SHEESH! WHAT ARE YOU HAULING IN THIS THING! SMELLS LIKE A SEWER IN HERE!
HEH HEH... DIDN'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE GETTING INTO, DID YOU? THIS MASK AND THE GOGGLES SHOULDA CUED YA.
I GOT FOUR TONS OF CLASS NINE GARBAGE, SEE, INCLUDING ABOUT A TON OF ROTTING SQUID, DUMPS WOULDN'T TAKE IT...
SO I'M DRIVING UP THIS WAY 300 MILES TO THE NEW LAND FILL. WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
OH, NOTHING... I JUST WENT FOR A LATE NIGHT SWIM IN THE OCEAN, THAT'S ALL.
AIN'T THAT DANGEROUS? SHARKS LIKE TO EAT AT NIGHT, DON'T THEY?
I WASN'T REALLY SWIMMING. JUST PLAYING AROUND WITH SOME GUYS AND I GOT HIT BY A BIG WAVE.

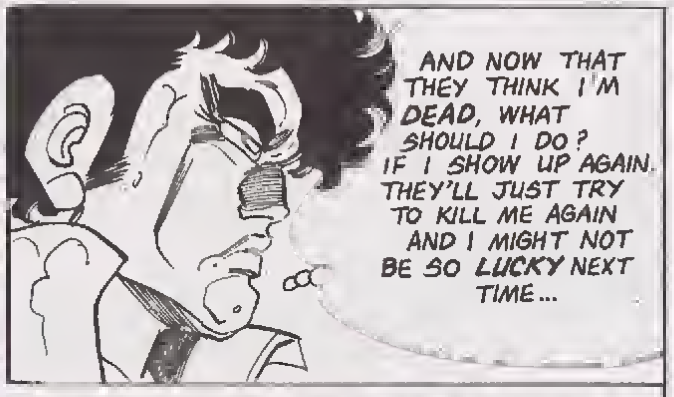
THEY DECIDED TO PULL A FAST ONE ON ME AND DROVE OFF BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO GET OUT. I'M SO MAD I COULD JUST GUN THEM ALL DOWN...
WITH FRIENDS LIKE THAT, WHO NEEDS ENEMIES, EH? BUT I'D WATCH THAT TEMPER IF I WERE YOU.

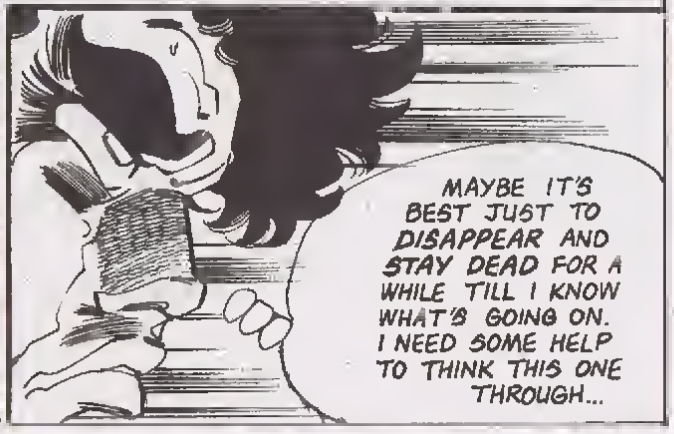
HOW COULD HE DRIVE 300 MILES WITH THIS PUTRID STINK?

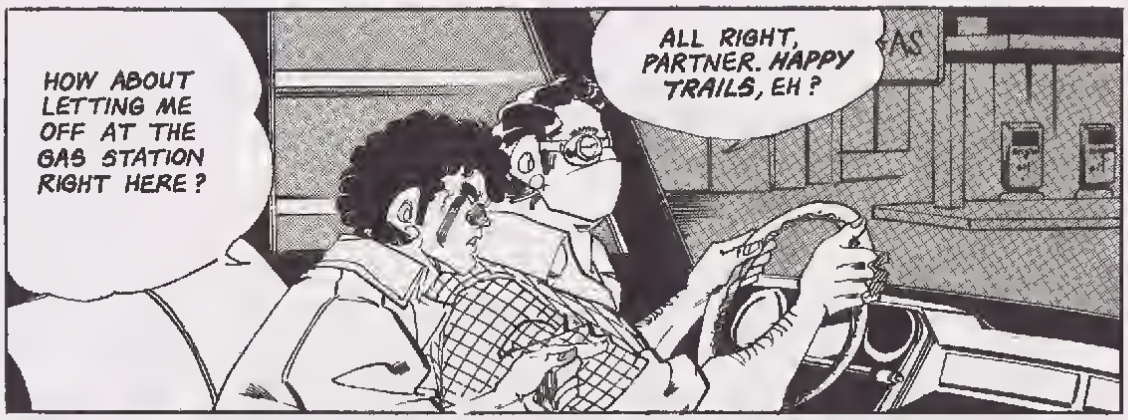

SMELLS LIKE THE SEWER THOSE RATS MUST HAVE CRAWLED FROM.

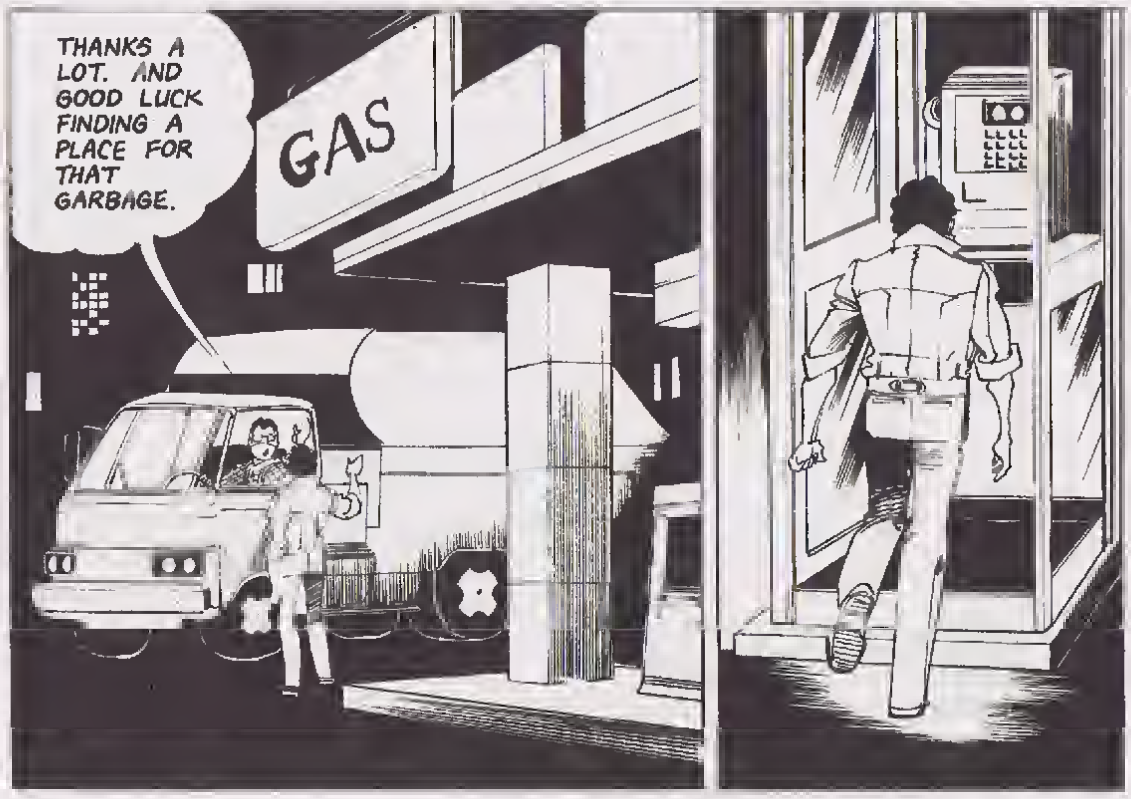
I WONDER HOW THEY KNEW IT WAS ME? DID THEY RECOGNIZE THE CAR? HMMM...

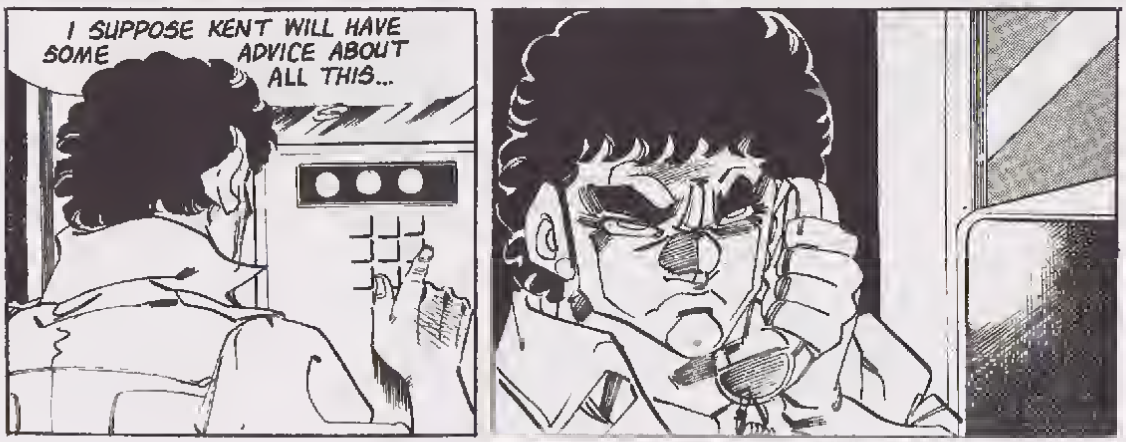
HOW DID THEY KNOW I WAS AT PANCIONE'S PLACE? THEY HAD TO HAVE TRACKED ME FROM THERE. I WASN'T FOLLOWED ON MY WAY TO DINNER...


AND NOW THAT THEY THINK I'M DEAD, WHAT SHOULD I DO? IF I SHOW UP AGAIN, THEY'LL JUST TRY TO KILL ME AGAIN AND I MIGHT NOT BE SO LUCKY NEXT TIME...

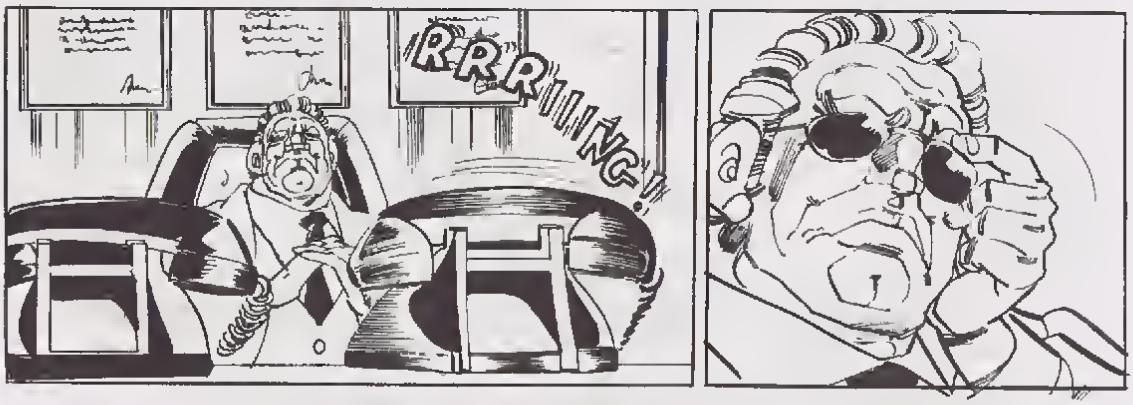

MAYBE IT'S BEST JUST TO DISAPPEAR AND STAY DEAD FOR A WHILE TILL I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. I NEED SOME HELP TO THINK THIS ONE THROUGH...

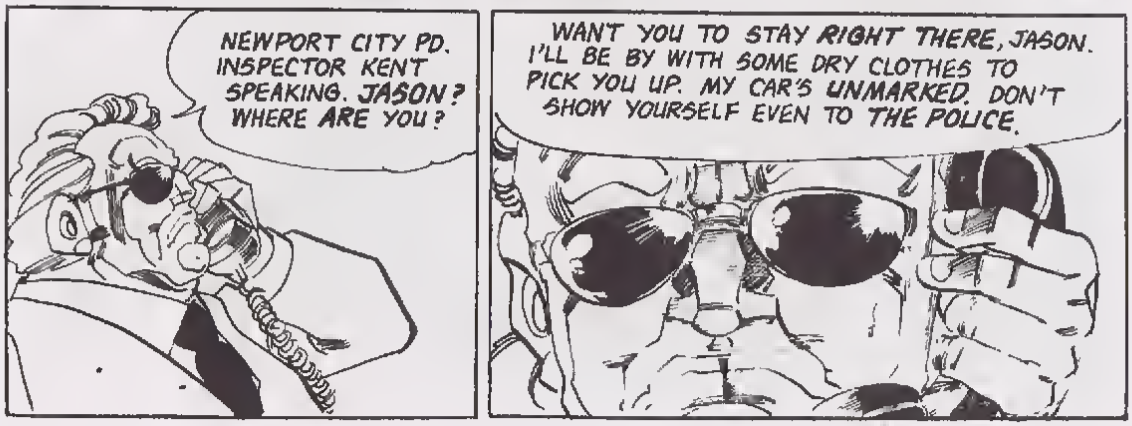

HOW ABOUT LETTING ME OFF AT THE GAS STATION RIGHT HERE?
ALL RIGHT, PARTNER. HAPPY TRAILS, EH?


THANKS A LOT. AND GOOD LUCK FINDING A PLACE FOR THAT GARBAGE.
GAS


I SUPPOSE KENT WILL HAVE SOME ADVICE ABOUT ALL THIS...

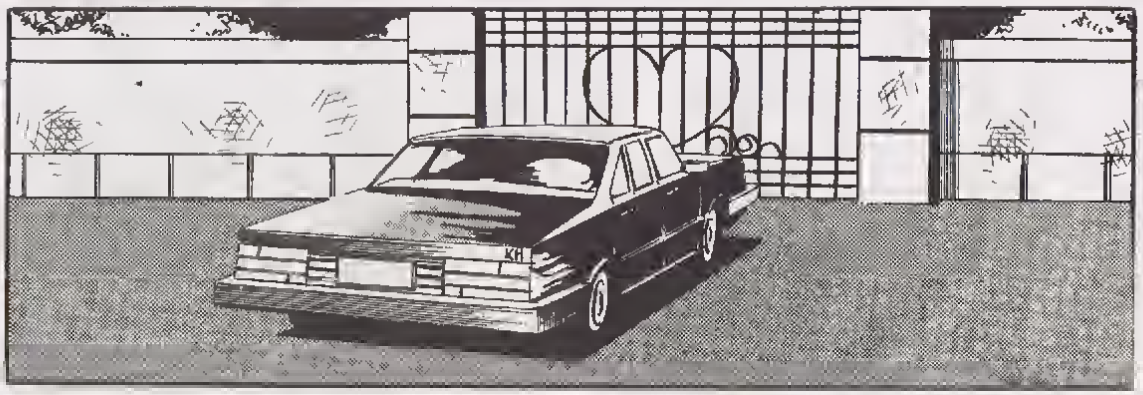
INSPECTOR KENT
AN IMPOSTER WEARING A JASON ROYT MASK LEAVES THE PANCIONE HOUSE... THIS IS TOO PECULIAR...

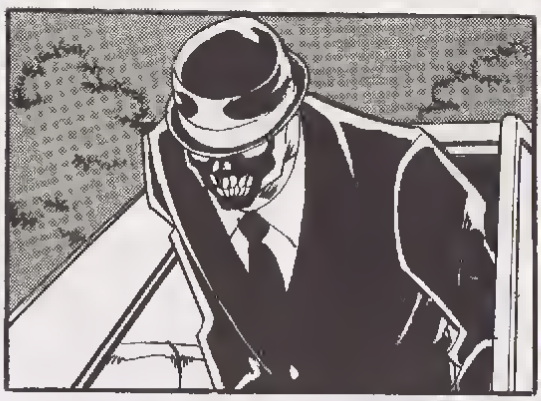

RRRRING!!

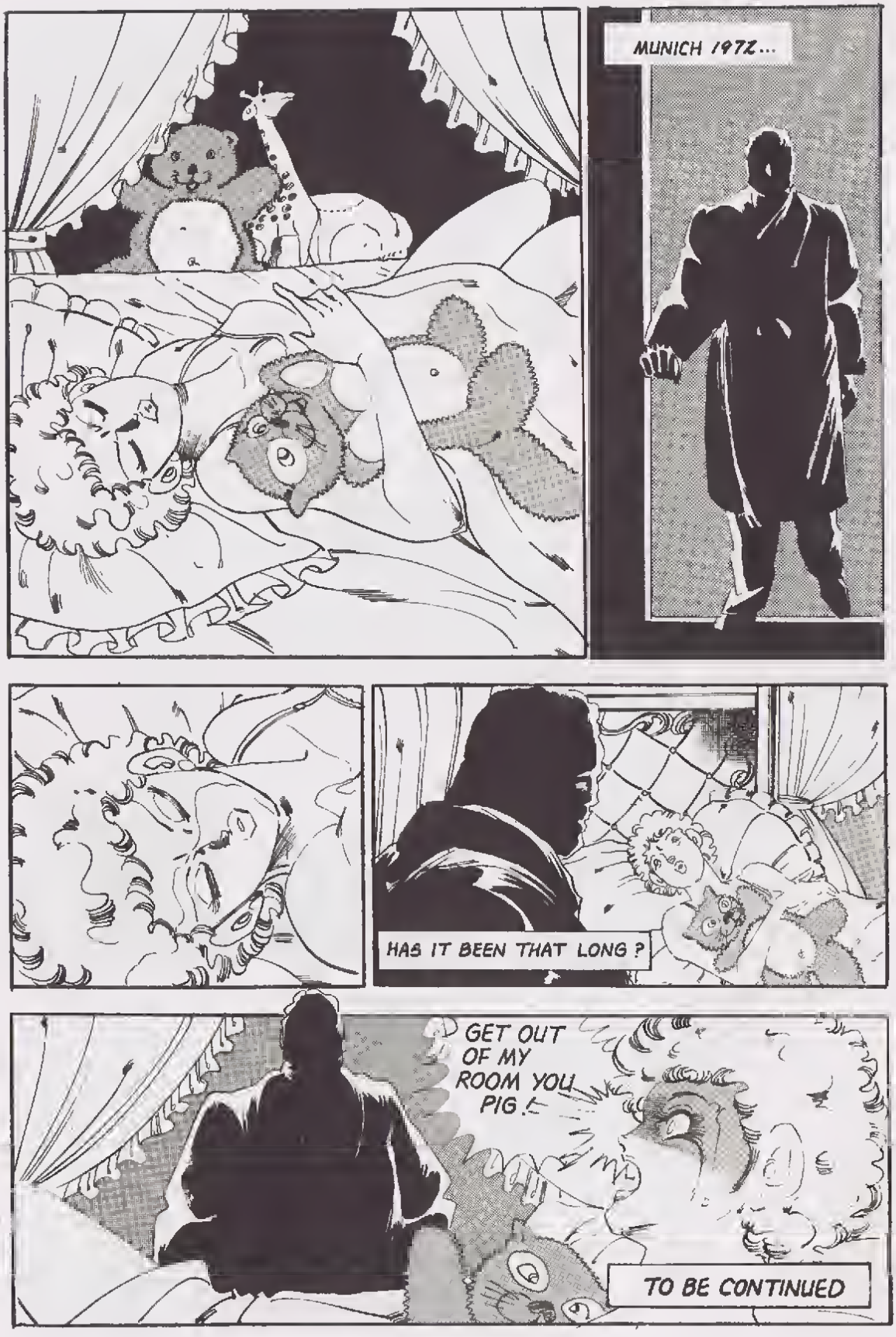

NEWPORT CITY PD. INSPECTOR KENT SPEAKING. JASON? WHERE ARE YOU?
WANT YOU TO STAY RIGHT THERE, JASON. I'LL BE BY WITH SOME DRY CLOTHES TO PICK YOU UP. MY CAR'S UNMARKED. DON'T SHOW YOURSELF EVEN TO THE POLICE.

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE, IT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
H88-0307

SO, MOUSE BOYS, HOW DID YOUR HALF OF THE PLAN GO?
PIECE A CAKE... COFFEE CAKE.



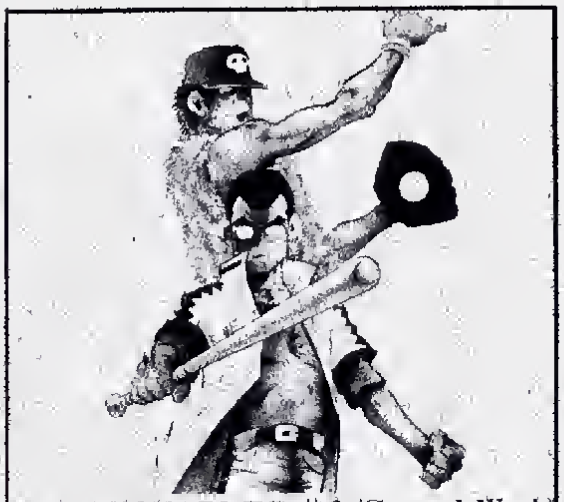



MUNICH 1972...
HAS IT BEEN THAT LONG ?
GET OUT OF MY ROOM YOU PIG !
TO BE CONTINUED

WEEKLY! FROM EASTERN COMICS

UNTOUCHABLES #1 (First Week)

Big game hunting with a baseball! Haesong leaves the mountains and goes back to Seoul with his father to try out for the big league.



UNTOUCHABLES #2 (Second Week)

Haesong signs up, but does the contract live up to his father's dreams? Top hitter Tongtak Ma moves in on Haesong's childhood sweetheart!

UNTOUCHABLES #3 (Third Week)

Haesong's rival softens up his girlfriend with a fancy ring. The old snake-catcher is hospitalized after a terrible accident, and Haesong meets Omji for the first time in four years.

UNTOUCHABLES #4 (Fourth Week)

Is it possible for Haesong and Omji to get back together? Or has Haesong become an untouchable? A glimpse into Omji's heart and a look at the source of Haesong's angry power.

SHIPPING JULY 1988

BLACKMASK

Jong-Jin Lee Franz Henkel

The police tail the wrong man, and Pancione's plan to murder Jason gets underway. A deadly night-time chase along the rocky cliffs of the coast highway. Jason and Inspector Kent make a secret deal.

Eastern
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SOMERVILLE
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